

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 791

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the War of 1812 British invasion of Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and the route of the American defense, for study for potential addition to the national trails system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 1999

Mr. GILCHREST (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To amend the National Trails System Act to designate the route of the War of 1812 British invasion of Maryland and Washington, District of Columbia, and the route of the American defense, for study for potential addition to the national trails system.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Star-Spangled Banner
5 National Historic Trail Study Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) the British invasion of Maryland and Wash-
2 ington, District of Columbia, during the War of
3 1812 marks a defining period in the history of our
4 Nation, the only occasion on which the United
5 States of America has been invaded by a foreign
6 power;

7 (2) the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic
8 Trail traces the arrival of the British fleet in the Pa-
9 tuxent River in Calvert County and St. Mary's
10 County, Maryland, the landing of British forces at
11 Benedict, the sinking of the Chesapeake Flotilla at
12 Pig Point in Prince George's County and Anne
13 Arundel County, Maryland, the American defeat at
14 the Battle of Bladensburg, the siege of the Nation's
15 Capital, Washington, District of Columbia (including
16 the burning of the United States Capitol and the
17 White House), the British naval diversions in the
18 upper Chesapeake Bay leading to the Battle of
19 Caulk's Field in Kent County, Maryland, the route
20 of the American troops from Washington through
21 Georgetown, the Maryland Counties of Montgomery,
22 Howard, and Baltimore, and the city of Baltimore,
23 Maryland, to the Battle of North Point, and the ulti-
24 mate victory of the Americans at Fort McHenry on
25 September 14, 1814, where a distinguished Mary-

1 land lawyer and poet, Francis Scott Key, wrote the
2 words that captured the essence of our national
3 struggle for independence, words that now serve as
4 our national anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner; and
5 (3) the designation of this route as a national
6 historic trail—

7 (A) would serve as a reminder of the im-
8 portance of the concept of liberty to all who ex-
9 perience the Star-Spangled Banner National
10 Historic Trail; and

11 (B) would give long overdue recognition to
12 the patriots whose determination to stand firm
13 against enemy invasion and bombardment pre-
14 served this liberty for future generations of
15 Americans.

16 **SEC. 3. DESIGNATION OF TRAIL FOR STUDY.**

17 Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act (16
18 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended—

19 (1) by redesignating paragraph (36) (as added
20 by section 3 of the El Camino Real Para Los Texas
21 Study Act of 1993 (107 Stat. 1497)) as paragraph
22 (37);

23 (2) by designating the paragraphs relating to
24 the Old Spanish Trail and the Great Western Scenic
25 Trail as paragraphs (38) and (39), respectively; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(40) STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HIS-
3 TORIC TRAIL.—

4 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Star-Spangled
5 Banner National Historic Trail, tracing the
6 War of 1812 route from the arrival of the Brit-
7 ish fleet in the Patuxent River in Calvert Coun-
8 ty and St. Mary’s County, Maryland, the land-
9 ing of the British forces at Benedict, the sink-
10 ing of the Chesapeake Flotilla at Pig Point, the
11 American defeat at the Battle of Bladensburg,
12 the siege of the Nation’s Capital, Washington,
13 District of Columbia (including the burning of
14 the United States Capitol and the White
15 House), the British naval diversions in the
16 upper Chesapeake Bay leading to the Battle of
17 Caulk’s Field in Kent County, Maryland, the
18 route of the American troops from Washington
19 through Georgetown, the Maryland Counties of
20 Montgomery, Howard, and Baltimore, and the
21 city of Baltimore, Maryland, to the Battle of
22 North Point, and the ultimate victory of the
23 Americans at Fort McHenry on September 14,
24 1814.

1 “(B) AFFECTED AREAS.—The trail crosses
2 9 counties within the boundaries of the State of
3 Maryland, the city of Baltimore, Maryland, and
4 Washington, District of Columbia.”

